NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM NICHOLS, ROGERS' BUILDINGS, CONGRESS STREET, BOSTON.—THOMAS G. FESSENDEN, EDITOR.

VOL. III. SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1824. No. 4.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer,

SIR,—I was pleased to see by the accounts from the northern parts of the United States as published in your late papers, that the frosts there had not been so severe as at this place, and further to the South West. Had the frosts there been severer than with us in proportion to their latitude, their agricultural produce would have been so generally cut off as to have occasioned a distressing scarcity.

Their accounts confirm my opinion, that the frosts were generated by the clouds rising high in the cold atmosphere, similar to hail storms in the heat of summer; the currents of air are very arbitrary or unsteady in their directions, either horizontal or vertical, as has been experienced by such as have taken voyages of pleasure in balloons.

The frost on the 15th of June fell so very uneven and spotted that some hills of Indian corn were totally killed and never grew more, while others next to them did not appear to have been damaged. In other places, there would be large patches of the points of the leaves killed—such plants appeared stationary for some time, and are yet more backward and small than those which show no marks of the frost—and what is very remarkable, such patches as showed marks of the frost abound with a large proportion of stalks on which there are no setts for ears, in some places whole hills together, and not a sign of an ear to be seen.—Crops of corn with us will be very light, and perhaps so late as to be hurt with the early frosts. Wheat and rye with us were generally more or less winter killed. Such as survived grew well; I believe the frost had no effect on it, unless a tendency to promote a red rust on the wheat. Oats, I am of opinion, from all appearances, were damaged or retarded in their growth, and flax the same. Potatoes, unless in some spots where the tops were killed, appear to be promising, but late.

In gardens the frost has been a very great damage, particularly to cucumbers, squashes, melons, pumpkins and beans. In some places in narrow valleys, they were generally all killed. I have some of each kind that survived the frost, but none that promise to do much except the beans; where the leaves were not totally killed they recruited, flourish and do well.

Darwin tells us, that plants and vegetables *respire;* and my vines that survived the frost continue to linger and die, as with some disorder similar to a consumption of the lungs. I do not expect to have any unless some late cucumbers that I planted since the frost.

Sallads, peas, onions, radishes, beets, carrots, parsnips and cabbages never promised better. The frost did not appear to hurt any of them.

As to fruit, I believe all the peaches and plums were killed with the frost on the 26th of May as also most of the apples which had the blossoms open. I have observed for a number of years that late apples blossom before early, and sour before sweet. As all the blossoms were not opened the 26th of May, I was in hopes of a sufficiency of early sweet apples being left; but the frost on the 15th of June fell so spotted, and left so very few apples of any kind to observe from, that I have little dependence on my own ideas; but by what I can observe, natural fruit on young thrifty trees withstood the frost best.

Darwin says, that every kind of apple has its period of life or existence—that grafting is but the elongation of the same tree—that several kinds to his knowledge had terminated or deceased. I believe he is correct: for several kinds of apples that flourished when I was young will no longer grow to bear on any tree where they are grafted, but the limbs soon die.

Several of the best kinds of apples that I have, I raised from the seed: and I recommend it to the consideration of your farmers, whether a young kind of apple, as well as tree, will not withstand frosts better than such as are declining with age.

I hope to see some further observations and remarks from your northern correspondents.

SAMUEL PRESTON.

Stockport, Pa. Aug. 7, 1824.

THE OAK-PRUNER.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer,

SIR,—A few days since I accompanied the Hon. Judge Lincoln to view the ravages of a worm in the extreme branches of the white and black oak trees left for shade on his farm.—Limbs from half an inch to an inch and a half in diameter were severed from the trees, and cut as smooth and as regular as could be done by a fine saw. Upon examining the fallen branches, near the part severed, the worm was discovered in a lively, active state. On every limb a small shoot was noticed, perforated from its extremity to the main branch. This appeared of recent growth, and indicated that the nit was deposited in or near the soft end at the top; from whence, in its progress to maturity it eat its way through this soft and succulent twig into a harder substance.

Previous to this examination, I took up a limb from under a pear tree which I supposed had been separated with a saw. On my return I examined it, and found it had been cut by the same worm.

I have sent you, enclosed in their habitations, several of this voracious tribe, that you may ascertain whether they are the same which infest trees in your neighborhood, under the appellation of *borers.*

Respectfully yours, &c.

O. FISKE.

Worcester, Aug. 10, 1824.

REMARKS BY THE EDITOR. The insect above described has formerly excited the attention of some of the most scientific cultivators in this vicinity. In the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository for January, 1819, vol. v. No. 3, page 308, is a paper communicated by that eminent naturalist, Professor W. D. Peck, which we believe contains the substance of what is known respecting this Wood Cutter, or Oak-Pruner. The following is an extract from the communication alluded to.

"For several years past the ground beneath the black and white oaks, has been observed to be strewed with small branches of these trees from eighteen inches to two feet in length. Mr. Sullivan assures me that he has found them five feet in length, and one inch in diameter. The falling of these branches is occasioned by the larva or grub of an insect, which when its feeding or larva state is nearly completed, eats away the wood in a circular direction, leaving only the bark entire; this is broken by the first strong breeze, and the branch with the larva in it falls to the ground. From this effect of its labours, it may be called the Oak-Pruner.

"At the meeting of the Board of Trustees at the seat of Gorham Parsons, Esq. on the 23d of July last, the Hon. Mr. Sullivan produced several branches of oaks, which contained larvæ. Five of these I brought home, reduced them to four or five inches in length, and in order to determine whether the larvæ descended into the earth, threw them into a vessel nearly filled with light garden mould, covering the vessel with a piece of window glass, both to prevent the escape of the perfect insects, if any should be disclosed, and to retard the drying of the mould.

"I imagined that as the larva is enclosed in the fallen branch with a sufficient supply of nutriment to carry it through the feeding state, that it was intended it should enter the earth when that state was passed, and that it was impelled by instinct to cut off the branch, that it might be brought in safety to the ground before it was quite ready to quit the wood; but my conjecture was erroneous; there must be some other reason for this process.

"A degree of humidity is necessary to favour the developement of the parts of the perfect insect while it is in the nympha state; in the body and larger branches of trees the moisture is sufficient for this purpose; but in these small branches, which are killed, the moisture would be exhaled by the action of the sun and wind if they remained on the tree, whereas by their falling and being thus placed nearly or quite in contact with the moist earth, their humidity is preserved. It was not precisely with this view that the prepared branches were treated as above-mentioned; but the purpose was attained. The vessel was kept in a warm room, the wood was kept moist, and one perfect insect made its appearance in November, another in December; but I believe they would not have been disclosed till spring, if the branches had remained abroad.

"The insect belongs to a tribe composed of a number of genera called capricorn-beetles and wood-eaters. The genus of which it is an undescribed species, is named by Fabricius, stenocorus. Linnæus would have called it cerambyx. It is of a dull brown colour, a little brighter on the under side, every where dotted with impressed points, and sprinkled with short whitish hairs which lie close to the surface; these give it a grayish hue under the magnifier. The antennæ are about as long as the whole insect, tapering a little from the base to the point, and have ten joints, of which the second and third terminate in a small spine. The thorax is even without any prominences; and the elytra or wing cases have each two points at the apex.—Individual insects differ considerably in magnitude, from four and a half to six-tenths of an inch in length. Their form is slender; the largest is only 12-100 of an

inch in breadth at the base of the elytra. It may be called stenocorus (putator) obscure-brunneus, albido-pilosus; thorace inermi; elytris bidentatis; antennis longitudine corporis, articulis 2 do and 3 tio spinula terminatis.

"This insect is probably diffused over a large portion of the United States from Maine to Georgia, wherever the oaks which it prefers are found.

"As the leaves are in full vigour in July, preparing the descending sap, and the greatest part of the wood is formed after the summer solstice, the loss of leaves at this season must diminish the tree's increase in diameter in proportion to the quantity of leaves taken from it. But the falling of the branches with the larvæ in them enables us, though we cannot destroy the species to check its ravages in some degree. The branches should be collected from the time they begin, till they cease to fall, and carefully burnt."

This insect in its grub or larva state, bears a pretty near resemblance to the apple tree borer, but is a little more slender, or somewhat smaller in proportion to its length. Its habits and modes of feeding, however, are very different. The borer attacks the *body of the tree*, and rarely if ever perforates or makes a lodgment in a limb, but the oak-pruner confines itself to the *small branches*, and has never, so far as we can learn, been discovered in the trunk or larger limbs. The borer feeds on the alburnum or sap wood of the trees, which it infests, but the oak-pruner devours the pith and heart wood of the small limbs. The oak-pruner attacks the tallest trees, and its work of destruction is carried on above our reach, and almost without the sphere of our observation. It is only when its labours are finished, and the mischievous part of its vocation accomplished that it condescends to quit its lofty habitation, and submit itself to the observation and experiments of the philosopher, or cultivator. The borer on the contrary, while engaged in its mischievous occupation is at hand, and may be destroyed without difficulty.

We believe, however, that the oak-pruner never entirely destroys the oak he feeds on, while the labours of the borer frequently end in the entire destruction of the apple tree. The remedy against the former suggested by Professor Peck, viz. gathering and burning the branches will certainly lessen their numbers, and is probably the only mode by which he can be attacked by human means. In large forests, however, this remedy can hardly be applied, but in small groves, wood lots, &c. we should suppose its application to be easy, and think it should not be neglected.

PLANTING CHERRY STONES.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer,

Sir,—I avail myself of your valuable paper to inquire the right season and best manner of planting Cherry stones. I have planted them in the autumn and in the spring; cracked and whole; lightly covered, and on the surface without success. I have noticed that they vegetate when left to themselves under the trees; and when dropped by the birds at a distance. As I have generally kept them some months in the house before planting, it may be that the vegetative power is destroyed by their becoming too dry. A. B.

The American Gardener's Calendar, under the month August, contains the following paragraph, which may, perhaps, be of use to our correspondent.

"Preserve peach, plum, cherry and apricot stones, &c. to sow for raising stocks to bud and graft on. These may either be sown immediately, or preserved till October or any of the following months, in common garden earth or moist sand; but it will be necessary to embrace the first opportunity in the spring, if not before, to sow them before the stones open and the radicals begin to shoot, otherwise a great number of these would be injured in the act of sowing. You may mix stones with either earth or sand, which put into garden spots or boxes, and plunge these to their edges, and no deeper, in some dry border, till the time of sowing. Every day that they are kept out of the ground is an injury to them, and if preserved in a dry state till spring, very few will vegetate for a year after, and the far greater number not at all."

Another work entitled "The Practical American Gardener," gives the following directions relating to the same subject.

"Peach, plum, apricot, and cherry stones should be carefully collected, to plant for raising stocks. *Plant them immediately in the seed-beds*, and you may continue to collect and plant till the ground is frozen; for although it will answer to plant them in the spring, in case of necessity, yet *very few will vegetate then.*"

Some writers inform us that the surest way of preserving the vegetative principle in seeds is to wrap them in absorbent paper, and pack them in raisins or moist brown sugar. We have no personal knowledge, however, of the efficacy of that mode of preserving seeds. We should be glad if the experiment were tried with cherry stones, which may be planted in the spring, and its result published.

WIND-MILL FOR PUMPING WATER.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer,

Sir,—I should be much obliged if you or some of your correspondents would present to the public an article on the subject of raising water for irrigation and other economical purposes by a Wind-Mill or a Pump set in motion by Wind. The advantages and disadvantages attending that mode of raising water, the manner of making, adapting and expense of machinery for that purpose, &c. if explained in such an article might benefit the public, and would particularly oblige

Your humble servant, H.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

HINTS TO HOUSE-KEEPERS, &c. &c.

Now mother Pug, it is time to look out for skippers; you must needs turn your cheeses every day. Girls be spinning early in the morning, and do not spend so much time before your glass in the afternoon. If you do, the boys will shiver for want of clothes next fall. I would advise young ladies not to take snuff, nor old ones so much as to become loathsome to themselves, or disagreeable to others. Dress well but not uncomfortably.

Daddy Jonathan, you may quit laughing at such strictures on your family—you may need a caution yourself. See that your barn-roof is whole, so that there will no wet come to your grain or hay. Take those hogs from your door, put them in a good pen—throw them rich earth and other things, and you will have a number of loads of good manure. Besides it will prevent fleas from keeping your boys and girls in torture all night, so that they can do nothing all day.

If you have bed-bugs, the New England Farmer will tell you how to kill them. Inoculate your apple-trees this summer, or graft them next spring without fail. This will save all this puckering of the mouth and smacking of lips on account of poor cider. If you wish to raise stock, put your mares and cows to the finest animals—it will doubly repay you.

Do not talk to your boys as if their opinion was never right—If you do they will surely become disgusted and discouraged. As I consider woolen to be a bad conductor of caloric, [or heat] I would advise every really accomplished gentleman to wear a complete woolen suit through the summer, especially in dog-days; taking off a coat in the middle of the day may be injurious to health. Boys, you may fish a day after harvest, and hunt foxes a few days next winter; but do not make a business of either. I am,

A FRIEND TO EVERY BODY.

NEW LAMP.

We have just seen one of the neatest and most convenient little inventions of the self-illuminating lamp kind which has ever been contrived for public use. The name of the inventor is, we understand, Mr. H. Berry. The lamp consists of a small tin box, about six inches long and three wide: it is divided longitudinally, and one of the divisions (out of which a wick rises,) is filled with oil or spirits of wine. On the other side there is an apparatus, the principal parts of which are, a sort of reel of three points, and a pulley to which a silk string of any length is attached. On pulling this, the reel makes one movement; and the first point which is armed with a match, strikes against the wick, and instantly ignites it. A clear and bright flame is thus lighted, and will burn for eighteen hours, at a very trifling expense: three pence per week, we are assured, will keep the machine in trim.

The utility of this lamp struck us much.—How convenient to the studious to have in their midnight watch only to apply to the slight silken cord, which they have laid near their pillow, for an agreeable light upon the table where their lamp was left amid books and papers? For the invalid, for all who dislike sleeping in a lighted chamber, for carriage travellers in the night, for the library, and for letter-sealing in summer, when fires are not wanted—in short, for general use, we consider this to be a most eligible invention; and we have no doubt that it will, as soon as known, become an article of conveniency. We cannot pronounce, without experience, whether it is likely to remain long in perfect repair; but this is essential to its manufacture, and we recommend it to the care of the inventor.

[*Ackerman's Repository.*

ECONOMIC FURNACES.

Mr. Miller, a potter of this city, employs 38 men and boys, in making small earthern furnaces for family use, manufacturing weekly about one thousand. Their utility is apparent from the extent of the demand. The love of novelty might induce a few to *experiment* with articles of this kind, but if not found to answer a beneficial purpose, they would soon be abandoned even by *philosophical* cooks and laundresses. Our notice can merely serve to bring

them more rapidly into general use, and as economy is, or ought to be, the order of the day, we doubt not that many a thrifty housekeeper will be obliged to us for informing her, that in the use of these furnaces there is a great saving of fuel. Those who are over-nice will be further obliged to us for informing them, that, with a little management, they can keep their kitchens in as neat trim as their parlors. Many place their furnaces in the yard, and we have heard of one lady, at least, who has had the backs and jams of her kitchen chimney place nicely whitewashed, being fully determined not to use the same during the summer season for any culinary purpose.

The furnaces offered for sale are of a variety of sizes—some calculated to receive a small tea kettle and others a large cauldron. The price demanded for them is very moderate, and so little fuel is necessary, that mention has been made to us of one family who did most of their cooking in one of these furnaces, and consumed but one barrel of charcoal in five weeks!

They are not new inventions. Though till lately but little known in the United States, they have long been extensively used in some parts of Europe. In Madrid, especially, where but few of the houses have chimneys, the use of them is almost universal, and in passing through the streets of that city, you may see numbers of families, cooking their dinners in these little furnaces, before their own doors.—We have no wish to see this custom introduced into Philadelphia, but we should like to see economy generally practiced, these hard times, and these small furnaces have been represented to us by disinterested persons, as admirably calculated to serve the purposes of thrifty housekeepers.—*Philadelphia Gaz.*

FIRE.

According to Pliny, fire was for a long time unknown to some of the ancient Egyptians; and when Eudoxus, the celebrated astronomer, showed it to them, they were absolutely in raptures.

The Persians, Phenicians, Greeks, and several other nations, acknowledged that their ancestors were once without the use of fire; the Chinese confessed the same of their progenitors. Pomponius Mela, Plutarch, and other ancient authors, speak of nations, who at the time they wrote knew not the use of fire, or had but just learnt it. Facts of the same kind are also attested by several modern relations.

The inhabitants of the Marian Islands which were discovered in 1521 had no idea of fire.—Never was astonishment greater than theirs, when they saw it on the descent of Magellan on one of their islands. At first they believed it to be a kind of animal that fixed itself to and fed upon wood. The inhabitants of the Philippine and Canary Islands were formerly equally ignorant. Africa presents us, even in our own days, with some nations in this deplorable state of ignorance.

The production of fire by collision, and the use of flint and steel, were probably known long before the time of Pliny; though the more ancient method of procuring fire was by rubbing two dry sticks one upon the other with violence. The Indians fasten two sticks of wood together, and then putting another stick between them, they turn the latter swift like a wimble, and thus make the whole take fire.—In Apulia they wrap a cane within some cords, and then drawing the cords backward and forwards, the cane becomes ignited by the motion.

Fire is also to be procured FROM THE SUN by means of a double convex lens, a concave mirror, or by a combination of a number of plain mirrors. It was by some one of these expedients that Archimedes contrived to set fire to the ships of the Romans during the siege of Syracuse. And that this account is not fabulous, as some writers have imagined, is rendered probable, from the effects which have been actually produced by these contrivances in later ages. The following instances will be sufficient to enumerate.

At the beginning of the last century Mr. Tschirnhausen, a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, made several burning glasses, which were either three or four feet in diameter, and had a focus of one inch and a half diameter at the distance of twelve feet. One of these, which was convex on both sides, and weighed one hundred and sixty pounds, was used by M. Homberg, who communicated the result of his experiments to the Academy, and announced the following facts.

"All sorts of wood," says he, "though ever so hard or green, will be fired by this instrument in a moment. Water in a small vessel will boil immediately. Tiles, slates, pomice stones, grow red in a moment, and vitrify. Any metal, put into the crevices of a coal, melts in a moment. Lead and tin volatilize entirely.—The ashes of herbs and wood become transparent glass in an instant."

Another instrument and one that was still more powerful was constructed in the year 1773, under the direction of M. de Trudaine, and placed in the garden of the Infanta at the Louvre. It was composed of two large glasses, each four feet in diameter, joined at the edges so as to hold alcohol. These glasses, which were without flaw, were two thirds of an inch thick, and formed two portions of a sphere of eight feet radius, leaving between them a vacuum capable of containing thirty-five French gallons of liquid. The focus of this instrument was at the distance of ten feet ten inches, when filled with alcohol; at eleven feet eleven inches, when filled with distilled water; and at seven feet when filled with liquid turpentine. With this apparatus all the effects already mentioned were easily produced, and even the clippings of bar-iron were melted in an instant.

We are informed, however, by Mons. Buffon, who expended a very considerable sum in the construction of different instruments for concentrating the rays of the sun, that the only way by which the sun's rays can be made to produce an intense heat at a great distance, is by the combination of a considerable number of plain mirrors, so disposed as to throw numerous images of the sun upon the same spot.

One of those instruments, which consisted of 360 plain mirrors, each eight inches long and six inches broad, mounted on a frame eight feet high, produced the following very powerful effects:

When twelve of the mirrors only were used light combustible substances were kindled at the distance of twenty feet. At the same distance a large vessel of tin was melted by 45 of these mirrors, and a thin piece of silver with 117 of them. With the entire machine all the metals and metalic minerals were melted at the distance of forty feet: and when the sky was clear, wood was kindled by it even at the distance of 210 feet.

In appreciating the comparative value of concave and plain mirrors, Mons. Buffon remarks, that as at the distance of fifty feet the focus, or space in which all the images coincide, is about seven inches broad, metals may be assayed by it, and other curious experiments made in the large way, which it is impossible to execute with concave mirrors, in which the focus is inconveniently near or weak, and generally a hundred times less than that produced by this machine.

Among other purposes for which this instrument may be employed, the author has stated that it might be used with advantage in the manufacture of salt, by producing a quick evaporation of the salt water, without the expense of fuel. An assemblage of twelve mirrors, each a foot square, will, he says, be more than sufficient to give a boiling heat to the liquor contained in shallow pans constructed for this purpose.

There are difficulties however in applying this instrument to purposes of general utility which must not be concealed. A cloud passing over the sun during some processes would be a great inconvenience; and when the sun does shine in its full splendour, the motion of the earth will prevent the focus from ever being kept for a minute at a time on one spot.

[*Parkes' Chemical Essays.*

Geological.—About the 7th inst. as some brick makers were digging clay, in this town, they struck a stratum of soft earth which has a perfect resemblance to the *flats mud* of salt water rivers. Near this, in the hard clay, were found petrifactions of marine shells. The clay pit on the side of a steep hill, about thirty rods from the river, and about thirty feet above high water. The stratum of mud is fifteen feet from the original surface.

A more extraordinary case, of this kind, occurred a few years since in sinking a well in this vicinity. Thirty feet from the surface the workmen passed a stratum of mud which had, not only the appearance of salt water flats, but the *scent*—and this so strong that it was carried home in the clothes of the labourers, and noticed by their families who exclaimed, "Why you smell just as if you had been in the salt water." In this mud were perfect shells. The stratum next above was blue clay—that below a fine sand. This well is perhaps 100 rods from the Penobscot and 60 or 80 feet above high water.

It ought to be remarked, that such mud is not found on the margin of the river in this vicinity. Although the tide frequently ebbs and flows *twenty* feet, yet it rarely effects the taste of the water, and never more than to make it a little brackish.—*Bangor (Me.) Gaz.*

To purify Stone Bottles.—Stone bottles grown musty by use, if partly filled with water, and the water thoroughly frozen, become as sweet as ever they were.

[*Parkes' Chemical Essays.*

From the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository for June, 1824.

Notice respecting several vegetables, used as esculents, (or food,) in North America. in a letter to Richard Anthony Salisbury, Esq. F.R. S., &c. by M. Joseph Correa de Serra, F. R. S., &c. —1821.

This article, which has never appeared, so far as we know, in any American work, was published in the London Horticultural Transactions. There are various and powerful reasons, why we should do ourselves honour, and render a just tribute to the enlightened author by republishing it. Mr. Correa de Serra selected this country as an asylum during the convulsions to which his native country, Portugal, was exposed. He finally enjoyed the honour of representing Portugal at the American court, as its Minister. His various and extensive knowledge, particularly his profound acquaintance with natural history is known to every man of reading in our country. He enjoyed the friendship and confidence of most of the distinguished characters in this country, and it would not be extravagant to say, that no foreigner ever visited our shores, who possessed a mind more enlarged, or better cultivated. He devoted much of his time to the study of the plants and natural productions of the United States, and it would not be more than just praise to say that he contributed as much as any man to the encouragement of a taste for natural history, now assuming something like its due share of importance in our country. We owe it therefore to his memory to put upon our printed records this memorial of one of the most accomplished scholars, whom we have had the happiness to welcome in our country.

Although the subject is an American one, and therefore it might be supposed familiar to us, yet our country is so vast in extent, that it is probable many of the facts will be as new to a great portion of our population as they were to the Europeans.

The paper hereinafter published was read to the London Horticultural Society, July 17, 1821. It was addressed to one of the Tustees of that Board.

"Dear Sir—It is impossible to foresee the full extent of happy consequences which may result from the labours of the Horticultural Society. It is the *first attempt*, that I know of, towards a confederation of *science* and *practice* directed to raise Horticulture *above* the state of an *Empiric* art, such as it has been heretofore. Now the encreasing capital of botanical knowledge will furnish new objects, on which to try the proceedings of cultivation, and the daily progress of vegetable physiology will no doubt direct these proceedings by clearer and safer principles, extending their application to almost every plant which nature has made fit for the food of man.

"I wish this example first given by your glorious Island [It must be known, that M. Correa de Serra was not British in his feelings, but highly republican] may be followed by all other civilized nations, and propagate the taste for such enlightened pursuits, which add to the comforts and pleasures of mankind, *unaccompanied with any counterbalancing evil.* If in future I enjoy sufficient leisure, I will try to concur, myself, in an undertaking so analogous to my way of thinking and feeling.

"For the present I venture to offer you the enumeration of a few plants, not yet cultivated in Europe, which my long residence in North America suggests to my recollection. You may present it to the Society, if you think it in any wise deserving of that honour.

"1st. The young shoots of the Phytolacca decandra, (see Botanical magazine page 931) which the Americans call 'poke' are brought in quantities to the Philadelphia market early in the season. They are eaten as a substitute for asparagus which they resemble in taste. The plant requires no cultivation and if it were treated, as you treat the Crambe maritima (Sea Kale) the taste of the sprouts would scarcely be distinguished from the real Asparagus.

[This information is entirely new to us, though we live only three days ride from Philadelphia. The Phytolacca decandra is very common by our road sides in the interior, though rather rare near Boston. Dr. Bigelow gives to it beside the popular name of Poke, that of 'Cocum.' It might easily be introduced into our grounds. Medicinal properties are ascribed to its root, but this should be no objection to its culture, as the same is true of the Rhubarb, now in so general use. It is at least well to know, that our neighbours in Pennsylvania use this plant in large quantities, as an Esculent.]

"2d. The Americans, settled on the Washita river, and in the Arkansaw Territory, as well as the travellers who have visited those countries, speak in terms of commendation, of a species of Wild Cabbage, which grows wild in those countries, and which bears *red* flowers. Muhlenberg, the *famous* American botanist, in his catalogue of American plants, (page 61), has given to it the name of Brassica Whashitana. I wish the Society would attempt the introduction and *civilization* of this plant. From the effects produced by cultivation in other parts of this family, we may expect, in a short period, a number of varieties, and some of them probably very valuable.

[Shall we suffer the Europeans (as they have often done,) to precede us in the cultivation of our own native plants, and to send them back to us in a highly improved state and sometimes even as *novelties?* It does not seem to us to comport with the high stand which we are aiming to take in all the arts. Let us shew what we can make of our own native productions and not receive them improved by the culture and skill of others.]

"3d. The Capsella bursa pastoris, or common Shepherd's purse (Thlaspi bursa pastoris. English botany 1485) is an esculent plant in Philadelphia, brought to market in large quantities in the early season. The taste, when boiled, approaches that of the cabbage, but softer and milder. This plant varies wonderfully in size and succulence of leaves according to the nature and state of the soil where it grows. Those from the gardens and highly cultivated spots near Philadelphia come to a size and succulence of leaf scarcely to be believed without seeing them. They may be easily bleached by the common methods and certainly in that state would be a valuable addition to the list of delicate culinary vegetables.

[Note. This plant is very abundant in all the gardens in the vicinity of Boston. If instead of extirpating it early, (for it is among the earliest plants) we should cover it partially with earth and blanch it, it might afford a valuable vegetable, coming in after the dandelion, and before the asparagus.]

"4th. The Hydrophylleum Virginicum is called by the Americans of the Western States, Indian Sallad, or Shawanese Sallad, because the Indians eat it as such while tender. Some of the first settlers do the same. From having tasted it once in Kentucky, I am of opinion that this plant deserves a fair trial of cultivation. (Few persons were better judges of what is palatable than the Abbe de Correa.)

"5th. The Apios tuberosa. (Glycine Apios) which grows wild in many parts of the United States, produces on its roots a number of tuberrosities of a good size, and very good taste.

"The Indian and American settlers eat them greedily when they find them, but never to my knowledge have attempted to cultivate them,tho' in my opinion they deserve a place among our culinary vegetables. I have not the least doubt of their succeeding well in England.

[This plant under the name of ground nut was familiar to our forefathers in New-England. It is rather singular that we have not attempted the cultivation of them. I have met but with one plant of them, and that I transplanted while it was in flower, and lost it. An ample compensation will be given to any person who shall bring to the subscriber either this autumn, or next spring, two or three dozen roots. I wish to see, if cultivation and care will not enlarge the tubers and improve them—John Lowel, Roxbury.]

"6th and 7th. The bulbs of the Quamash (Scilla esculenta) which *Nuttal* makes a species of Phalangium. (Nuttal's Genera of North American plants, page 219), with the tubers of the Psoralia esculenta (Pursh flora Americana Septentrionalis, Vol. II. page 475) are the usual vegetable food of many Indian tribes, and were one of the supports of the people composing the American expedition through the continent to the Pacific Ocean under Captains Lewis and Clarke. Both these plants may probably prove valuable acquisitions; *at all events*, they are fit subjects for the inquiry of the Society. [We add, *still more proper* subjects for the inquiry of an American Agricultural Society.]

"8th. The Indians about Colombia river gather vast quantities of large tubers of an aquatic plant, which, according to the late professor Barton of Philadelphia, who had seen dried specimens of it brought by Capt. Lewis, is a species of Sagittaria. These tubers are an important part of the diet of these tribes.

"You may see in Osbeck's voyage to China, that similar tubers from a species of Sagittaria grew in the watery places about Canton, and if I well remember are purposely cultivated, turning to profit those naturally unproductive spots.

"Would not this object be worthy of the Society? if perchance, indications of this nature, directed chiefly to increase the number of useful objects of cultivation meet the indulgence of the Society, I shall feel encouraged to continue this kind of communication.

I am, &c. &c.

JOSEPH CORREA DE SERRA."

Note. Unhappily for science this great naturalist did not live to make any further commu-

nications. Would it not be practicable, and certainly it would be honourable to those who should do it to bring home some roots of the Esculent Sagittaria of Canton and of the *North West?* All that would be required would be a very tight box. Although an aquatic plant, all the Sagittarias will live and thrive without great moisture. They might be brought to this country, and our national character requires, that we should not let Europe send this native plant to us, as she has done many others.

We hope this purely American article will not be considered as misplaced in our Journal.

From the Columbian Centinel.

ILL EFFECTS OF CHEESE.

Mr. Russell,—A caution respecting the ill effects of Cheese in South Reading, which you was requested, and had the goodness to publish in one of your last May numbers, was sent to your office by the subscriber of this article. Soon after that publication, the Selectmen of this town received a letter from *Boston* Post-Office, subscribed "An Agriculturalist of Middlesex," signifying his disbelief of the statement referred to, and assigning a different cause of the ill effects of Cheese in South Reading, from what was stated in that caution, saying, he had learned from good authority, that in New-Braintree and its vicinity, "*it was expected one cheese or more, in a dairy would be poison!!!*"* and that agriculturalists had endeavored to ascertain the cause of this, but had not yet succeeded. On this phenomenon I am not disposed to trouble the public with any comment of mine; but will only say, if our good dairy women should, by *any* means, know when the "one or more poison cheese" is *about to come*, their duty to the public and to themselves would require them to dispose of it in some other way.

Since I sent you that notice, sir, a number of other instances of the *ill effects of cheese* have come to my knowledge. It has not indeed been absolutely ascertained that in all these cases *lead* was the cause of the excruciating distress and continued sickness which have been endured, but it *has* been ascertained that *cheese* contained the evil. *More than twenty* in this small village have been made sick, and numbers *very* sick, by the use of *cheese* purchased here. Since May last, *more than eighty* instances have come to my knowledge by credible information from different places, and most of them not 20 miles from Boston, of similar suffering by the use of *cheese*. Some of these instances have already appeared in the public papers; and I trust, for the good of community, all instances of the kind will be given to the public that every precaution may be adopted, which shall better secure the comfort, health, and lives of our citizens, which have been thus sacrificed, perhaps a thousand fold more than what has come to our knowledge. I apprehend it is no new thing that cheese has had such deleterious effects.—We have often heard and known of individuals and whole families suddenly taken very ill, and effected in the manner above related, and the cause never known; consequently prescriptions and applications made, which would not have been judged the most judicious had the cause been known. That such bane should be concealed in an article so extensively used, is enough, surely, one would think, to excite alarm. I hope for the good of my fellow citizens, that this and similar notices, will be published in every newspaper in our country; that effectual measures will be taken in all our market towns for the detection of the evil; and that all purchasers of that article will use such caution as will preserve them from the distressing evils endured by my family and others to which reference is had in this paper.

REUBEN EMERSON.

South Reading, Aug. 1824.

* We have used New Braintree cheese for very many years, and always found it nutritious.—*Editor.*

From the Concord Gazette.

The following letter from a respectable Physician brings to light a new example of the mischief, which the community suffers from time to time from the sale of cheeses which have been rubbed or smeared with *red lead*. It is a subject which ought to excite strong feelings, and we hope the legislature will think it of sufficient consequence to require their interference.

Messrs. Printers,—A gentleman of Boston, owning a farm in this neighborhood, was about erecting a building on the same; and on Saturday last the neighbors were invited to assist in raising the frame. After the raising was completed, supper was prepared; there was on the table two kinds of cheese; one of a very red color was brought from Boston and appeared to be of the first quality, the other was made in this place and not colored. As I had gone to the place to have an interview with my neighbor who had formerly lived on the farm, I partook of the fare with others. In the course of the supper I ate a piece of the red cheese, but being called away from home, I did not return until about ten o'clock, at which time I felt very unwell; my distress increased rapidly and I soon found my stomach very much distressed, and began vomiting at an unusual rate; I found that I had thrown up considerable blood, and several of my succeeding vomitings were principally blood. The last blood thrown up did not coagulate, but turned of a very dark color. My pulse was accelerated, small and hard. I perspired profusely, and at the same time I experienced a remarkable coldness on the forehead, which a number of others who underwent a similar operation, except the discharge of blood, very particularly noticed, and were very generally exercised with cramp in the limbs.

Eighteen persons in this town suffered more or less by eating of this cheese, and every one that ate of it suffered, excepting one who took but a very small quantity. This same gentleman left a part of the same at home, and on his return found nearly all his family suffering in the same manner, so that we may number 24 or 25 that suffered by this one poisonous cheese. From the extreme distress that I underwent myself, I am confident that nature could not have long withstood it.

Have not numerous and repeated instances of persons being injured by eating colored cheese, become of sufficient importance to attract the attention of our Legislature? or may people poison what they sell in the market with impunity? AMARIAH PRESTON.

Bedford, Aug. 6, 1824.

N. B. I have not recovered my health at this time.

POISON.

In the year 1805, an apothecary in one of the northern counties having drunk some bottled porter was seized with symptoms which convinced him that he was poisoned; but not knowing what noxious matter he had taken, and not being capable of analizing the remainder, no antidote could be applied, and he gave himself up as lost. A physician had been called in: but neither he nor the patient, nor his partner, could get any information by examining the remaining contents of the fatal bottle; though, I understand, they are all intelligent men, and in great repute in their profession. In this dilemma what could be done? It was recollected, however, that a neighboring gentleman had the reputation of being a good chemist. To him the physician and the partner of the patient hastened, to get the dregs analysed, and to learn what ought to be administered. Fortunately, this gentleman had just received Gottling's Book of Tests, which I had procured for his brother, and which had been sent to him but a very short time before. By this book he was enabled to ascertain that the poison was oxide of antimony: and when the patient was informed of it, he recollected that antimonial wine had been kept in a similar bottle some years before; and supposed that the porter must have been bottled without the dregs being properly washed out. This circumstance led to the proper antidote, which was administered immediately; and the life of the unfortunate man preserved: but, in consequence of the loss of time, the poison had so far taken possession of the system as to deprive him of the use of a limb.

[*Parkes' Chemical Essays.*

Surprising property of Oil.—The action of oil, in stopping the violent ebullition of various substances, is truly surprising. It is well known that if a mixture of sugar, honey, or the like, be boiling upon the fire, and in danger of rising over the sides of the vessel, the pouring in of a little oil makes it immediately subside. In many cases the marking a circle round the inside of a vessel, in which a liquor of this kind is to be boiled, with a piece of hard soap, shall, like a magic ring, confine the ebullition to that height, and not suffer it to stir any further.—This is wholly owing to the oil or fat contained in the soap; but there is, besides these, another very important use of oil on a like occasion, which is the pouring a little of it on any metallic solution, while making; this restrains the ascent of the noxious vapours; preserves the operator from danger; and, at the same time, by keeping down the evaporating matter, gives redoubled strength to the menstruum. Pliny has mentioned an extraordinary effect of oil, in stilling the surface of water when it is agitated with waves, and the use made of it, by the divers for this purpose.

Gardiner Lyceum.—The annual examination took place on the 20th ult. It was highly satisfactory to the Trustees, visitors, and other company. Gov. Parris expressed his gratification, and his conviction that the institution will redeem the pledge it has given of great usefulness. *Somerset Journal.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1824.

FARMER'S CALENDAR.

MANURE HEAPS COMPOST-BEDS, WEEDS, &c.—Be very careful not to suffer weeds of any sort to ripen their seeds on, or any where within gun-shot of your mines, or mints for making money, which your manure-heaps and compost-beds may be styled, almost without a metaphor. If you distribute the seeds of noxious or useless plants with your manure you need not wonder, and ought not complain, if weeds, the pests of agriculture, get the upper hand of your most valuable crops. Cut down, therefore, or dig up by the roots all useless or noxious plants in good season, that is to say before their seeds are formed or nearly ripened, and either throw them to your swine, for their daily luncheons, rake them into heaps, and bury them with sods, mud, rich earth, &c. or dry them in the sun, (if you have a large crop,) and I dare say your cattle will *admire* them for food during some of the cold *spells* which will probably visit us next winter.

FRUIT TREES. This is probably as good a time as any for budding or inoculating your apple, pear, and peach trees. The American Gardiner's Callender says, "cherries, plums, or any fruit trees may as well be budded in this month (August) if the bark parts freely from the stock. Pears ought to be inoculated in the early part of the month, or while the sap flows freely; but the peach, nectarine, almond, and apple will succeed any time between the first of August and twentieth of September, provided that the stocks are young and vigorous."

"You may now inoculate all such curious trees and shrubs as you wish to propagate in that way: there are very few but will succeed at this time, if worked on good and suitable stocks; but when you find the bark not to part or rise freely, it will be almost in vain to attempt the work."

"You should now look carefully over the stocks, which were budded in July, and in three weeks, or at most a month, after their being worked, loosen the bandages, lest the buds should be pinched thereby; and where there are any shoots produced below the buds, they should be rubbed off. You ought also to examine the trees, which were budded the former year, or grafted in the spring, and cut off all the shoots that are produced beneath the inoculations or grafts: for if these are permitted to grow they will starve the proper shoots."

BEES.—Those of our good customers, subscribers, readers, and all others, including each and every body to whom our observations on this subject are applicable, will pay proper attention to their *bees*. To go at large into the uses of honey would be to write a volume.

We have been told that some folks suffocate their bees in August, in order to rob them of their honey, when in fact the season for making honey is not nearly passed; for August is said to be the best month in the year for that purpose. The Cottager's Manual assures us that "it happens in this month that the bees begin to kill their drones, which is the immediate signal for the ignorant bee-master to purchase a bundle of matches, wherewith to suffocate his bees; this is performed on the erroneous supposition that the massacre of the drones indicates the close of the honey season; but it is impossible to entertain a more erroneous idea, it having in fact, no affinity with the honey season. So far from attempting to suffocate my bees, were I ever guilty of the barbarous practice, I would not hesitate to take from my hives a portion of the honey, with the well-founded hope of the vacuum being replenished before the close of the season.

"There are two points to which the attention of the apiarian should be this month directed:—The first is, the pillage of the hives by stranger Bees; and the second is, the attack of the hives by wasps. In the first case, a removal of the attacked hives has been recommended; and certainly, if the removal could be effected to that distance, beyond the range of attacking bees, the calamity might at once be put a stop to; but as this is an advantage which can seldom be enjoyed by a keeper of bees, I would recommend instead of it, that on the very first symptom of an attack, the entrance should be immediately contracted, so as to admit only two bees to enter at a time, and every crevice about the hive by which a bee could enter carefully closed. The tin entrance attached to the Huish Hive is well adapted for this purpose, the opening can be contracted or enlarged at pleasure, with celerity and cleanliness, and I believe I can be borne out in my assertion, by the skilful proprietor himself, that the hives of Captain CALL of *Taplow Hill*, during one of the most violent attacks which I ever beheld, upon twenty-eight hives at one time, were all saved by the use of that simple instrument. The attack of the wasp may be defeated in the same manner, but this insect appears to possess a degree of boldness and cunning, which is wholly foreign to the bee. It will with the greatest adroitness watch its opportunity to enter the hive, but it will never enter at the front, if by the negligence or carelessness of the proprietor an opening has been left behind. I have good grounds for believing that more hives are impoverished by the robberies of the wasps than is generally conceived, and the most certain way of diminishing the number of these arch-enemies of the bees, is to hunt out their nests, and either blow them up with gunpowder or suffocate the horde of thieves by a handfull of brimstone.—The cottager, in general, entertains an opinion that the wasp kills his bees; this is, however, by no means the case, for the wasp will pay no attention whatever to the bees, if he can but succeed in stealing the honey; it will, however, frequently happen, that the natural cunning of the wasp enables it to discover a weak hive, and the continual annoyance which the hive consequently undergoes, added to the robbery of the honey, obliges the bees to vacate the hive, leaving the whole of its contents a prey to the marauders. A cottager therefore, cannot be too attentive to guard his hives against the attack of the wasp—it is not of that trifling consequence which many keepers of bees attach to it, but is the cause of the ruin of many wholesome hives, which the imprudence or negligence of the proprietor has left exposed to the depredatory attack.

Having adopted every precaution requisite against the wasp and other insects, and the proprietor having convinced himself that his hives are in good health, the less they are incommoded this month, the better. If the sun beats very strongly upon a hive, which frequently happens the beginning of this month, a shade should be immediately applied to it. I have known many hives completely ruined by the melting of the combs from the influence of a meridian sun, and the whole of the bees actually suffocated in their own sweets."

The following mode of destroying the *bee-miller* has been recommended. "To a pint of sweetened water, (sweetened with sugar or honey) add half a gill of vinegar; set this in an open vessel on the top of the hive; and at night when the miller comes to his work of destruction, he will prefer this composition, and diving into it, will immediately drown."

To preserve your bees as well as your fruit against wasps, Mr. Forsyth recommends "several phials, or small bottles, to be prepared, towards the time when the wasps appear. These vessels are to be filled, half or three parts full, with a mixture consisting of the lees of beer or wine, and the sweepings of sugar, or the dregs of molasses: next, they must be suspended by yellow pack-thread, on nails driven into different parts of the garden-walls, so as to reach nearly the bottom. When the bottles are filled with insects, the liquor must be poured into another vessel, and the wasps crushed on the ground. Should the weather prove very hot, so that these marauders become very numerous, and will not enter the glasses exposed for their reception, Mr. F. directs them to be touched on the back with a little oil, when they will instantly fall down; their bodies acquiring a black or green colour; and the lateral pores through which they breathe, being closed up by the oil, they consequently perish."

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL LA FAYETTE.

New-York, August 16.—Early yesterday morning, the ship Cadmus, Capt. Allen, was announced by the Telegraph to have arrived below, with General LA FAYETTE on board. The pleasing intelligence spread over the city almost with electrical rapidity, and every countenance beamed with joy. Broadway and the Battery were soon crowded with ladies and gentlemen, anxious to catch a glimpse of the veteran hero, who, it was supposed, might come immediately to the city. The arrangements for his reception, were, however, speedily communicated to him by the city authorities, and he landed at Staten Island, from the steam-boat Nautilus, a few moments past ten o'clock, in company with his son, GEORGE WASHINGTON LA FAYETTE, Mr. AUGUSTE LE VASSEUR, a companion, and one servant, where they were received by the Vice President of the United States, and conducted to his seat. The General remained at the Vice President's, till 11 o'clock, this morning. During the most of yesterday, he received the visits of many who were eagerly pressing round him, and anxious to grasp his hand. Col. PLATT, who was in his suite during the Revolution, officiated to receive and introduce visiters, but in many instances, the General, unrestrained by the ordinary rules of etiquette, was as anxious as his visiters to crowd forward and take them by the hand. Fort La Fayette fired a salute of 13 guns, answering to the original number of the states, as the ship passed; and when the General landed at Staten Island, a salute was fired from the ship Importer, Captain Kean, from Canton, belonging to Thomas H. Smith, Esq. In the city, the national flag was hoisted at all the public places, and all the ships in the harbour, and displayed during the day.

The Committee of the Corporation chartered the steam-boat Bellona, and proceeded at 10 o'clock, to Staten Island with General Morton, General Benedict, and several members of the Common Council, to greet his arrival, and communicate informally, the arrangements that had been made.

Gen. La Fayette has had a pleasant passage of 31 days, enjoys good health, is in fine spirits, full of conversation, and happy at finding himself once more on the soil of freedom, among his compatriots of the Revolution and a nation of freemen grateful for his services and eager to honour him.—*N. Y. Statesman.*

La Fayette.—We have been favoured with a letter from a gentleman in New York, (a Bostonian) to his friend in this city, from which we extract the following interesting particulars relative to La Fayette. We think that the General may be expected in Boston as soon as Tuesday next.

"I have just returned in the steam boat from Staten Island, and taken the earliest opportunity of informing you of the arrival of La Fayette. He is at the house of Vice President Tompkins. I have been introduced to him, and was really delighted with his affability. His dress is a blue coat, yellow vest, and black pantaloons, which come down over his shoes so low as to hide his stockings—he is lame in his left leg, and walks upon the side of his foot. He is, I should think, over six feet high, and stoops a little—of sandy complexion—speaks broken English, and has the appearance of a Frenchman both in looks and politeness. I will relate one circumstance which will amuse you. Mr. Tompkins introduced several gentlemen, and among them Mr. *Noah*, of the National Advocate—the latter as follows: "*This is Mr. Noah, the Prince Regent of New-York.*" The General understood the quiz, and laughed heartily—the modest Major was rather dashed, but it passed off very well, for Noah considers himself one of the General's children.

"During my conversation with the General, he spoke in the highest terms of Boston and its vicinity.

"The committee requested him to stay at the Island until Tuesday, but his answer was, "*I cannot, for I wish to be in Boston, that I may visit Cambridge on Commencement day, where I shall meet many of my old friends. You no doubt know my attachment to you* ALL: *I am heartily glad to see you—but must make a visit immediately to Boston, and will return again.*" You cannot think how disappointed the gentlemen of the committee appeared to be—all making calculations when Commencement would take place at Cambridge! I do assure you it gratified me much to hear him speak so affectionately of old Boston.—His son, George Washington, looks to be about 45 years old—there is nothing very prepossessing in his appearance; but I think the good ladies of your city may be pleased with him notwithstanding.

"The General shakes hands, cordially, with every person that is introduced to him—and I hope the committee in your city will so arrange matters that every decent citizen may pay his respects to him, poor as well as rich."—*Boston Gazette.*

☞ The Mayor of this city has received official information from New-York, that Major-General LA FAYETTE will proceed forthwith to Boston, and will be at the Half-way House between Providence and Boston, on Sunday evening next, and that he will enter Boston the next day.

A most tragic event took place in this city on the 14th instant. Two young men, named J. and R. Hart, natives of St. Thomas, who visited New-York this spring, lately returned from Albany, and were waited on while at dinner on Wednesday, by an officer with writs against them both for debt. They begged permission to retire to their chamber for a few minutes, and presently the reports of pistols were heard, and on forcing the door, they were found extended on the floor lifeless, feet to feet, and with their brains blown out, and their heads and faces completely destroyed. They were brothers, of the reported ages of 24 and 21. The only cause yet assigned for this horrible suicide is pecuniary embarrassment.—*N. Y. Chronicle.*

Damage by Lightning.—Two dwelling houses in Tarrytown, N. York, were struck with lightning on the 9th inst. and a young lady severely injured. A barn, belonging to George Combs, Esq. full of grain and hay, was set on fire and consumed, and endangered an adjacent dwelling house though the rain descended in torrents. In the same vicinity another dwelling and a young man were struck and injured.

In Fairhaven village, Bristol County, the Meeting house was struck on Tuesday morning, and damaged to the amount of $500. The fluid first struck the weather cock, and descended to the building. On Monday a barn was struck in N. Scotland, N. Y. and consumed with its contents. Loss $1000. On Friday the Kingston Cotton and Woolen Factory was struck and consumed. On the 8th a house in Dover, Penn. was struck, and the son of the owner, 16 years old, killed. A barn in Thernet, N. Y. was struck on the 3d inst. and consumed with all its contents. We believe none of the above houses or barns were provided with lightning rods. A barn belonging to Mr. Asa Wood of Ashburnham, was struck on Monday last week, but not essentially damaged. A stable belonging to James Turner, Esq. in Baltimore county, was struck and consumed. Nearly 100 hogs were stunned by the shock, and laid apparently dead for some hours, when they recovered and exhibited no signs of bodily injury. In Russel in this state, three cows and a bull, belonging to Mr. Loomis, were killed; in West Springfield, 17 sheep belonging to Mr. Leonard; and in Granville, the tavern of Mr. Parsons, and the house of Mr. Church were struck and destroyed. At the southward the storms were attended with hail. In Gittysburgh, Penn. from 7 to 10,000 panes of window glass were broken and much grain destroyed. Some of the hail stones were so thick as to be fifteen hours in dissolving. In Egypt, N. J. a similar destruction took place.—*Centinel.*

The Dysentery.—This dreadful disease is spreading its ravages in Clearfield county.—Amongst a vast number of victims we are extremely sorry to find the name of Mrs. Bell, wife of A. Bell, Esq. who died a few days since. All that Medical skill can do for those who are attacked, seems to avail but little; such is the virulence of the disease.—*Bellefonte, Penn. paper.*

Brig of War wrecked.—The schooner Princess Anne, Captain Banks, arrived at Norfolk in nine days from Havana, reports that on the 4th instant, "in latitude 29, 10, longitude 79, 40, saw a wreck to leeward, got out the boat and boarded her; found her to be a large man of war brig, with her larboard bow out of water; her larboard quarter stove in, her masts and the greater part of her rigging and sails standing; saw 2 dead bodies on the wreck, under water, and a number of pieces of flesh floating near the wreck—found a Colombian pendant on board. Supposed her to be a Colombian man of war, and probably blown up, as part of the stern frame was lying in the foretop; the long boat was alongside, bottom upwards, she was American built, and a yellow streak round her—took from the wreck an anchor, sails, rigging, &c."

[*N. Y. Statesman.*

William Rollins, Esq. has been recognized by the President of the U. States, as Vice Consul of the King of Sweden and Norway, for the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

William Henry Allen, of Maryland, has been appointed by the President, Commissioner for ascertaining Claims and Titles to Land in Florida, in place of William G. D. Worthington, declined.

Extraordinary Fruitfulness.—A grain of wheat which grew this summer on a farm in Allentown, Penn. is stated to have had, apparently from a single root, 46 perfect branches, averaging 35 grains each, or 1610 grains in the whole.

The manuscript of Milton recently discovered in England, was about to be printed in June, at the Press of the University of Cambridge, together with an English translation. It consists of more than seven hundred pages.

The Crops.—From recent accounts we can state, that the staples of Louisiana never promised a more abundant yield, especially that of sugar; the fields are literally groaning under their rich covering. In despite of every disaster, Louisiana, like Sampson of old, can never be completely bound. Her agricultural strength will break through every temporary enthralment, and must carry her sons in triumph to the portals of wealth and grandeur. She must be the mistress of the West—hurricanes and rot to the contrary notwithstanding.—*Louisiana Advertiser.*

In one or two instances, recently, persons have been fined for carrying letters in steam boats, in violation of a law of the U. S. Capt. Read, of steam boat Superior, has been fined $30 at Wilmington for conveying a single letter.

Cast Iron Bits.—A Dearborn waggon, containing a family, upset in the State of Ohio, and injured several persons severely, in consequence of the bridle of the horse breaking, which was found to be composed of *cast iron bits.* This is a common species of manufacture from abroad, and should be looked into closely, before they are purchased.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

STOLEN from the bar of the subscriber, between the 30th July and 2d of August instant, a lot of KEYS, 13 in number, all but two of which were altered, either by filing or cutting. They were found on the stage road in Lexington, on Friday, the 9th of July last, connected together by a small iron chain with a piece of cloth and silk handkerchief around them. The keys were of large size, some of them had the appearance of being store keys recently used, others were rusty but newly altered. They were doubtless collected for no good purpose, and may be instruments for doing much damage.

STEPHEN PATCH.

Lincoln, Aug. 6, 1824.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
APPLES, good, to best,	bbl.		
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	120	
pearl do.		120	122 50
BEANS, white,	bush	80	1 00
BEEF, mess, 200 lbs.	bbl.	11	
cargo, No 1,		8	9
" No 2,		6 75	7 50
BUTTER, inspect. No. 1. new,	lb.	11	12
CHEESE, new milk,		7	9
skimed milk,		3	4
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	82	84
FLOUR, Baltimore, Howard St	bbl.	6 50	
Genessee,		5 75	
Rye, best,		2 62	2 75
GRAIN, Rye	bush	53	56
Corn		40	52
Barley			
Oats		30	33
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	11	12
HOPS, No 1, Inspection of 1823		38	40
LIME,	cask	85	1 00
OIL, Linseed, Phil. and Northern	gal.	70	75
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	3	
PORK, Bone Middlings	bbl.	16 00	17
navy, mess,		13	13 50
Cargo, No 1,		12 50	13
SEEDS, Herd'sGrass, 1823,	bush	1 75	
Clover		5	7
WOOL, Merino, full blood, wash		60	70
do do unwashed		40	45
do 3-4 washed		45	50
do 1-2 do		37	42
Native do		25	30
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		48	52
do Spinning, 1st sort		35	40
PROVISION MARKET.			
BEEF, best pieces	lb.	8	10
PORK, fresh, best pieces,		8	12
" whole		6	
VEAL,		4	10
MUTTON,		3	12
POULTRY,		10	20
BUTTER, keg & tub, new,		12	15
lump,		16	20
EGGS,		12	14
MEAL, Rye, retail,	bush	62	65
Indian, do.		58	60
POTATOES, new,		62	75
CIDER, liquor, new	bbl.	2 50	3 50
HAY, according to quality,	ton.	16 00	20 00

[The following nervous lines were received some weeks since, and should have had an earlier insertion had they not been mislaid, and but lately reclaimed. We hope they may produce some effect in scouting out of civilized society, a custom, which is nothing better than a cruel, bloody and disgraceful remnant of vandalism.]

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

THE DUELLIST.

As dies a fool, the duellist dies,—
The laws of God and man defies;
Ghastly he quits this mortal stage,
Replete with malice, guilt and rage!
O Death, we leave him to thy care:
Such fools Columbia well may spare;
As none but such will thus be slain,
Let men of sense no more complain.*
Blood-thirsty coward beasts of prey,
In darkness sneak, and shun the day;
So murderous Cain now skulks behind,
The scorn of every noble mind. K.

*Suppose a rogue, for once is slain.—Franklin says,—"A rogue hanged out of a family does it more honour than ten that live in it."

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

STANZAS,

On seeing a young lady in a melancholy state of mind from some cause unknown to her friends.

Child of melancholy, say
Why this sadness and dismay?
Has some adverse wind assail'd thee
Travelling through this dreary land?
Hast thou felt the shafts of envy,
Shot by some malignant hand?
Or has slander's poisonous dart,
Pierc'd thy honor to the heart?
Hast thou felt its deathful blast,
The future cursed in the past?
Tell me, child of sadness, say,
Dost thou court the grave's repose?
Dost thou long for death to hide thee,
From the world and all its woes?

Care worn mortal, stop and ponder
Ask thy conscience, ask with fear,
Is there no tribunal yonder,
Where thy spirit must appear?

Ah! the grave can never soothe
The storms that wreck thy wretched breast,
Fly to God and he will give you
Solid joy and lasting rest.

MORTIMER.

Boston, 1824.

Miscellany.

Singular Circumstance.—The following extraordinary circumstance has been communicated to us, and authenticated by the most respectable authority: A few days ago, at Kemback house the attention of the servants was excited by the appearance of a common duck, at the kitchen door, quacking or rather screaming in a most unusual manner.—It was known to have been hatching, and hunger was supposed to be the occasion of the clamor. Food was accordingly thrown out to it but instead of eating, it seized the servant girl by the apron, and pulled it with some force. The girl, though probably surprised at the familiarity of the animal, shut the door and resumed her work. The poor duck, however, was not to be repulsed in this manner, and continued beating at the door with its bill and wings, till it attracted the notice of some ladies of the house. The door was reopened, when it again seized the girl with its bill, and pulled her with increased force. On the servant going a little way from the door, the duck ceased its noise, and waddled on with considerable expedition towards the park. The girl followed for a short way, but having no idea what it would be at, and possessing less than an ordinary share of female curiosity, was returning to the house, when the duck pursued her, *quacking* with greater violence than ever. She determined to see the end of this, and followed her silent companion who led the way to a sunken water trough in the park, in which much to her astonishment, she found two ducklings apparently but a day old, in the mud, from which they were vainly endeavoring to extricate themselves. They were immediately released, to the apparent satisfaction of the mother, who in a very singular manner, had thus saved the life of her offspring.—*Eng. paper.*

A Toad.—A miner employed with others in sinking a new coal pit, near Haughtonle Spring, a few days ago, found a living toad in the middle of a solid block of stone, at the depth of between 25 and 26 fathoms from the surface of the earth. The reptile was brought up, and four days after was killed and examined. It was found to have nostrils but no mouth: in other respects it resembled the common toad.

Temples excavated out of Granite.—Capt. Seely has published an account of a magnificent Temple in Elora, East Indies, which was hewn out of the solid rock. It is 100 feet high, and 145 feet long by 62 broad, having well formed door ways, windows, stair cases in its upper floor, large rooms divided by pillars, and figure galleries, with compartments containing figures of Hindoo mythology. *Old Col. Mem.*

Six persons died lately in England, in consequence of drinking cider drawn from a barrel, where some adders had died, and were undergoing decomposition.

ANECDOTES.

A schoolmastor, (worthy brother of Hierocles) taught his boys, whenever they heard him sneeze, to rise up with solemnity, cross their hands on their bosoms, and ejaculate "God preserve our venerable tutor!" One day he took them out for a walk; and the weather being hot, it was proposed they should drink at a well. The well was deep, so the master made them join their turbans together for a rope, and descending to the bottom, handed them up their drink, one after the other. The refreshment over, he bade them draw him out again, and had nearly reached the top, when the coldness of the well making him sneeze, the whole posse instantly let go the rope, threw themselves into their accustomed attitude, and exclaimed with fervor, "God preserve our venerable tutor!" who broke his leg in consequence of their piety and his precision.

A schoolmaster hearing one of his scholars read, the boy, when he came to the word Honour, pronounced the word full, the master told him it should be spoken without the *h*, as thus, *onour:* "Very well, Sir," replied the lad, "I will remember for the future." "Aye," said the master, "always drop the *h*." The next morning the master's tea, with a hot muffin, had been brought to his desk, but the duties of his avocation made him wait until it was cold; when speaking to the same boy, he told him to take the muffin to the fire and heat it: "Yes, Sir," replied the scholar, and taking it to the fire, ate it. Presently the master calls for his muffin; "I have eat it, as you bid me," said the boy: "Eat it, you scoundrel? I bid you take it to the fire and heat it." "But, Sir," answered the lad, "yesterday you told me always to drop the *h*."

The late Dr. Brown courted a lady several years unsuccessfully; during which time, it had been his constant custom to drink the lady's health before that of any other: but being observed one evening to omit it, a gentleman wishing to remind him of it, said, "Doctor, come, drink your usual toast." The Doctor replied, "I have toasted her for several years, and can't make her brown; so I'll toast her no longer.

Neutrality is not permitted to a good citizen. Indifference about political party is not moderation, but either an insensibility to the public welfare, or a selfish desire of getting favour with both sides at the expense of the honest.

☞ *Subscribers to the Farmer, are informed that they can have their volumes bound on reasonable terms by leaving them at this Office.*

LANDS FOR SALE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

THE subscriber offers for sale in small lots to actual settlers, or in larger tracts to others, the following lands in the State of Pennsylvania, belonging to the estate of the late Wm. Bingham, viz: *two hundred and fifty thousand acres* in the counties of Bradford and Tioga, at from *three dollars*, to *two dollars fifty cents* per acre, according to situation; and *five hundred thousand acres* in the counties of Potter, McKean, Venango, Armstrong, Jefferson and Lycoming, at *two dollars* per acre. The terms are ten years for payments, three of them without interest. The land is generally of a good quality, well watered, intersected by important roads, and in a healthy situation. For further particulars application may be made to agents in the different counties, or to

ROBERT H. ROSE,
July 24. *Silver Lake, Pennsylvania.*

WANTED No. 51, of the 1st Vol. of the N. E. Farmer. For which a generous price will be given by the publisher of this paper.

TO PRINTERS.

FOR sale at this Office BALL SKINS, at the usual prices.

MR. GROVE'S *Essay on Sheep*, in a pamphlet form for sale at this Office. July 10.

TERMS OF THE FARMER.

☞ Published every Saturday, at THREE DOLLARS per annum, payable at the end of the year—but those who pay within *sixty days* from the time of subscribing will be entitled to a deduction of FIFTY CENTS.

☞ No paper will be discontinued (unless at the discretion of the publisher,) until arrearages are paid.

JOB PRINTING

Executed with neatness and despatch, on reasonable terms at this Office.